Tips for SuccessFollowing is information that will help you become more adept at manipulating locks. Solutions to common problems and generalmiscellaneous information that could prove useful is included.Determining the Direction of RotationBefore you can pick a tumbler type lock, you must determine the correct direction of rotation. It may sound like a trivial point, but whowants to waste hours trying to pick a lock the wrong direction. Though there will of course be exceptions, there are some generalguidelines. Cylindrical locks, padlocks, file cabinet locks almost always turn in a clockwise direction or either direction to open. Whenconfronted with a door lock, turn the plug so that the top of the keyhole turns toward the edge of the door. There is a notable exceptionhere, Corbin and Russwin locks turn AWAY from the door edge. Tight or Dirty LocksIf a lock seems exceptionally tight or dirty, it will be hard to break the pins. It may help to lubricate the lock. NEVER use a liquid typelubrication such as WD40, 3-in-1 oil, etc... Use powdered graphite, available in most hardware stores. It comes in a little tube, allowing alight squeeze to blow a puff of graphite into the keyway. If lubrication does not help, you may need to apply a little firmer hand on thetension wrench. Proper AttitudeIt is very important to maintain a confident attitude while you are learning to pick locks. If you feel nervous or stressed, it will onlymake things harder. You will not be able to pick every lock you come to, but with practice and patience, you may be surprised. Visualisewhat is happening inside the lock, this is the key. If you don't fully understand how a lock works and exactly what you are doing to it,you will not experience a high degree of success.